

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 08604 201330Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----064415 201339Z /46

O 201306Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3976
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 8604

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM PICKERING

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EG, JO, XF
SUBJECT: JORDANIAN TREATMENT OF SADAT VISIT

REF: A) AMMAN 8584, B) CAIRO 19344, C) STATE 278237,
D) STATE 278168

1. I SPOKE WITH HUSSEIN ON THE TELEPHONE AT NOON
NOVEMBER 20 AND HE ASKED TO SEE ME IMMEDIATELY.
MOST OF OUR CONVERSATION COVERED HIS CONCERNS ABOUT
SADAT'S ACTIONS AND WILL BE REPORTED SEPTTEL.

2. HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD WORKED HARD ON TRYING
TO PRODUCE A POSITIVE STATEMENT ON WHAT SADAT HAS
DONE, AS PERSONALLY PAINFUL AS HE FINDS SADAT'S
ACTIONS. HE SAID THAT HE WILL BE TELEPHONING ASAD
SHORTLY (HE PUT IN THE CALL AS I LEFT) TO GIVE FEAST
GREETINGS AND THAT HE EXPECTS TO GET A TONGUE LASHING
FOR HIS STATEMENT, WHICH LASHING HE SAID HE IS READY TO RETURN.
HE KNOWS THAT WHAT JORDAN HAS PRODUCED IS NO RINGING
ENDORSEMENT OF SADAT, BUT HE ASKED US TO UNDERSTAND
THAT HALF HIS COUNTRY ARE REFUGEES, THAT FEELINGS ARE
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HIGH, AND THAT HE WILL DO ALL HE CAN TO KEEP THINGS
UNDER CONTROL.

3. WHILE YOU MAY BELIEVE THAT GOJ STATEMENT WAS
DAMNING WITH FAINT PRAISE, MY SWISS COLLEAGUE HERE
SAYS IT IS THE OPPOSITE--"PRAISING WITH
FAINT NEGATION", I HOPE WE CAN LEAVE TO THE HISTORIANS

A FURTHER EXEGESIS ON THIS POINT. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS, UNTIL THE RESULTS OF THE VISIT BECOME CLEARER, GOJ WILL BE BACK IN PRINT.

4. ON THE AD DUSTOUR STORY, KING HAS TOLD ME OF HIS PERSONAL REGRETS. HE SAID HE ASKED GOVERNMENT TO KEEP THE LID ON BEFORE HE LEFT FOR OMAN, AND THAT THEY SAW THE EDITORS ONCE A DAY AND INDEED HAD ANOTHER TOUGH SESSION WITH THE PRESS LAST NIGHT. AT THIS POINT, FEELING IS SO HIGH THAT HE CANNOT EXCLUDE MORE PETITIONS, STATEMENTS AND EDITORIALS, BUT HE WILL CONTINUE TO DO ALL HE CAN. HE REMINDED ME GENTLY THAT IT IS THE U.S.S. WHICH IS IN THE FOREFRONT OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS, THAT HE HAS TRIED TO DEVELOP A RESPONSIBLE PRESS OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, AND THAT THE ONLY REAL SANCTION HE HAD WAS TO CLOSE DOWN THE PAPERS AND THERE WERE ALREADY TOO FEW PAPERS IN JORDAN TO DO VERY MUCH OF THAT.

5. COMMENT: KING UNDERSTANDS OUR POINT. IN TURN HE ASKS US TO UNDERSTAND THE DEPTH OF FEELING IN JORDAN, AND HIS OWN EFFORTS TO KEEP THINGS UNDER CONTROL. END COMMENT

6. ON LIBYA, I RAISED WITH HIM AT THE END OF OUR TALK WHERE MATTERS STAND. HE SAID QADDHAFI HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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NEVER HAD MUCH LOVE FOR JORDAN, AND WITH JORDAN'S STATEMENT LAST NIGHT ON SADAT HE EXPECTED THE SITUATION WOULD GET WORSE. QADDHAFI HAD SENT HIM A HYSTERICAL MESSAGE NOVEMBER 19 CALLING HIM "MY TWIN BROTHER." ON THE MILITARY TRAINING SIDE, THE DECISION IS IN ABEYANCE; HE WANTED TO LET THINGS COOL FOR A WHILE AND THEN WOULD SEE WHETHER OR NOT TO GO AHEAD. HE ALSO NOTED WITH TOUCH OF HUMOR THAT GOJ HAD INTERCEPTED LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC MESSAGE YESTERDAY ORDERING THE AMBASSADOR TO HOLD A PUBLIC BURNING OF THE EGYPTIAN FLAG WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS THE FLAG OF THE STILLBORN EGYPTIAN, SYRIAN, LIBYAN UNION. PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977AMMAN08604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770430-0915
Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771137/aaaabfqh.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dc583e15-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 AMMAN 8584, 77 CAIRO 19344, 77 STATE 278237
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 514768
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDANIAN TREATMENT OF SADAT VISIT
TAGS: PGOV, EG, JO, XF, (HUSSEIN I), (PICKERING, THOMAS R), (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dc583e15-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009